

**Release Date: For Immediate Release**

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## **SBA Size Standard Hearing to be Held in St. Louis**

**ST. LOUIS** -The U.S. Small Business Administration St. Louis District Office will host a public hearing on Thursday, June 2, at the St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley, 3400 Pershall Road, Multi-Purpose Room, St. Louis, Mo. 63135, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., to get input from small business owners on how to improve the agency's size standards regulations, which are used to define the size of small businesses.

The forum will allow small business owners to provide valuable input to SBA officials that will help the SBA simplify and restructure its size standards and make other changes that will make the size standards easier to understand and use. The SBA also will be seeking testimony on the participation of research and development companies that are majority-owned by venture capital companies in the SBA's Small Business Innovation Research program.

Size standards are important to businesses that seek assistance from SBA's small business programs, including federal contracting. The SBA would like to hear directly from the public before deciding which improvements to pursue. The SBA will consider a new size standards proposal once a thorough review of comments received from the public is completed. The SBA is currently evaluating more than 6,000 comments that were submitted in response to the advance notice.

A notice published May 12 in the Federal Register provides information on the purpose, format, scheduling, and registration for the size standards public hearings. A copy of the notice is currently available on SBA's Web page at [www.sba.gov/size](http://www.sba.gov/size).

The SBA is specifically requesting comments on a variety of size standards issues, including:

- approaches by which to simplify size standards;
- calculating business employment size;
- use of receipts to measure business size;
- designating size standards on federal procurements;
- establishing a separate set of size standards for federal procurement;
- establishing tiered size standards for small business sub-categories;
- simplification of the affiliation and joint venture provisions;
- grandfathering existing small businesses from revised size standards;
- identifying the use of size standards on non-SBA federal programs and regulations and the impact of size standards changes;
- the participation of small businesses that are majority-owned by venture capital firms in the SBIR program; and

- the relationship between franchisors and franchisees in the Temporary Staffing industry.

Anyone interested in testifying must pre-register by May 26 at [hearings.sizestandards@sba.gov](mailto:hearings.sizestandards@sba.gov) with name, title, organization affiliate, address, telephone number, fax number, email address, and indicate location of desired hearing (St. Louis).

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